

LETTERS

Sirs:

As Deputy Director of the Army Research Laboratory's Vehicle Technology Directorate, I lead the propulsion-related R&D [research and development] activities jointly undertaken by the Army and NASA at the Glenn Research Center [OH]. Naturally, I was delighted when I saw the cover of the September-October 2000 issue of *Army AL&T* and eagerly anticipate a growing role of joint Army/NASA work at all three NASA S&T [science and technology] sites: Ames, Langley, and Glenn. I'm afraid that's where the rub is. In reading the Acquisition Executive's column on the inside cover, which I always do very carefully, I couldn't help noticing that in the fifth paragraph, where the collocated activities were cited, the activity at Glenn was unmentioned. I can't overemphasize how sensitive an issue that is at Glenn, both on the Army and the NASA side, as it would be at any of the collocated sites. The fact is, Army and NASA researchers at Glenn are playing a very significant role in the M&S [modeling and simulation] thrusts that comprise the new collaborative initiatives. Therefore, I feel bound to point out the omission in the column, inadvertent as I'm sure it is, and small as it may seem. For the new initiative to really get started right, it's incumbent on us, the Army, to be very sensitive to cultural issues with our new (but not really new) partners. Though Langley is lead, the M&S thrusts will ultimately span work across the other NASA centers, including Glenn, and a unity of purpose roles must be respected. For this reason, and it's really a shame, I'm reluctant to disseminate this issue—I just know all 52 Army people here at Glenn will pick up on the omission and probably share their observation with their NASA colleagues. It's a

shame because other than that, it was a very fine column and issue (just as in "other than that, how was the play Mrs. Lincoln?").

Thank you for your attention to this concern.

**Diligent Reader and Loyal Army Employee,
Robert C. Bill**

Army AL&T Response:

Dear Mr. Bill:

Thank you for pointing out the significant M&S role being played by Army and NASA researchers at the Glenn Research Center. As you know, the Army/NASA partnership's focus on SMART [Simulation and Modeling for Acquisition, Requirements and Training] and ISE [Intelligent Synthesis Environment] initiatives is in its initial phase. Just as Mr. Goldin indicated, we must take time to build a solid foundation, set up the partnership correctly, and move out. Both agencies are "getting acquainted" and discovering the extent of potential for sharing technology and expertise.

Regarding the organizations mentioned in the Army Acquisition Executive column, there was no intent to imply that these collocated organizations were the sole extent of partnership activities occurring throughout the Army and NASA. The intent was to highlight the wide array of challenges and endeavors engaged in by the Army and NASA and describe how they are putting the SMART and ISE concepts to work for better solutions.

We look forward to hearing about Glenn Research Center's work in future issues of *Army AL&T* magazine or, perhaps, at the co-sponsored SMART Conference next April.

NEWS BRIEFS

Army Research Lab Shares Two SBIR Quality Awards

The Army Research Laboratory (ARL) is sharing two 2000 Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) Quality Awards with industry partners Production Products Manufacturing and Sales Inc., St. Louis, MO; and Cree Inc., Durham, NC.

Working with Dr. Bruce Fink of ARL's Weapons and Materials Research Directorate, Production Products developed a capability to measure the interior rate of strain on lightweight composite vehicular armor during ballistic attack. This was accomplished through the combined use of fiber-optic recording, high-speed demodulation, ballistic testing, and composite materials. This capability will help the Army design more survivable armor for soldiers and their equipment.

With the assistance of Dr. Kenneth Jones of ARL's Sensors and Electron Devices Directorate, Cree developed the powerful High Electron Mobility Transistor (HEMT) for use in high-efficiency solid state amplifiers. HEMT has produced record power densities and X-band efficiency. This technology will benefit current and future DOD communication systems and is also commercially applicable in radar, cellular base stations, and microwave satellite communications.

Congress initiated the SBIR Program in 1982 to increase business participation in federal research and development (R&D). Army SBIR research efforts encompass three phases. Phase I is the

feasibility study, which lasts up to 6 months and is funded for up to \$70,000 with a \$50,000 option available. Phase II is R&D, which can last up to 2 years and is funded up to \$730,000. Finally, Phase III involves commercialization, which is funded by the private sector or by non-SBIR Program sources.

The annual Quality Awards Program recognizes Army SBIR Phase II projects for technical achievements, contributions to the Army, and dual-use commercialization potential. Each year, a panel of Army and industry experts selects the winning projects from more than 100 candidates. ARL has won 7 of the 38 Quality Awards presented since the program began in 1994.

For more information, contact Dave Davison at (301) 394-2302, or e-mail ddavison@arl.mil.

TEC/TRAC-WSMR Employees Receive Outstanding Achievement Award

Dr. Paul Krause and Louis Fatale, employees at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Topographic Engineering Center (TEC), and Danny Champion, an employee at the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command Analysis Center-White Sands Missile Range (TRAC-WSMR), NM, are recipients of a DOD Modeling and Simulation (M&S) Outstanding Achievement Award. The TEC/TRAC-WSMR team members were presented the award by Dr. Delores Etter, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Science